

Office of New Americans Advisory Board

Supporting the Economic, Linguistic and Civic Integration of New Americans in the Commonwealth

Wednesday, October 6, 2021

9:30 AM- 12:00 PM

Patrick Henry Building – East Reading Room

111 E. Broad St, Richmond VA 23219

ONAAB Board

Eric Lin, *Chair*

Hannah Borja, *Vice-Chair*

Kate Ayers, *Secretary*

El Hadji Djibril Niang, *Treasurer*

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Jennifer Crewalk

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Michael Hoefer

Susannah Lepley

Dora Muhammad

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Office of New Americans

Grace Reynolds, *Board Liaison*

Office of New Americans

Committee Meeting Agenda for Economic Opportunity

Agenda:

Committees will work from 9:30 AM- 12:00 PM on the following:

9:35am: Public Comment Period

Establish/Confirm Committee Lead

Discuss description as it appears in

committee structure matrix

Brainstorm and prioritize potential focus

Create tactical plan and assignments with

scheduled targets.

Lead will report out during committee

report outs during general meeting

Meeting notes from Economic Opportunity:

Susannah Lepley, Lead

The initial focus of this team will be on building the capacity of the small business administration (entrepreneurs) to serve immigrant communities.

A common barrier is that immigrants often fail when they try to start a business because they don't know what all it will take to be successful.

Rammy and Djibril will contact local small business administration offices and Eric will contact the state small business. They will be asking about language access, marketing, and assistance programs.

A second area they will look at is pathways for becoming professionals- We need to think about small steps along the way because people may need to take breaks to work and support their family while participating in job training programs.

Eric encouraged committees to reach out to their counterparts on the other advisory boards to see if they are working on the same issues.